

JOINT CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 12:18 p.m. in the Town Room, Town Hall.

Present: Doug Slaughter, Kay Moran, Molly Turner, Pat Holland, Elaine Brighty, Diana Stein, Stephanie O'Keeffe

Absent: Kathleen Anderson

Others Present: Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director John Musante, Library Director Bonnie Isman, School Department representative Joan Chamberland, Public Works Superintendent Guilford Mooring, Public Works Committee members Charles Moran and Vince O'Connor, Walter Wolnik

Mooring reviewed the DPW capital requests, and Public Works Committee members expressed support, per the background materials provided to JCPC.

- **Sidewalk Repairs:** \$30,000 for sidewalk work throughout town. This would be in addition to sidewalk repairs eligible for Chapter 90 funding per abutting road work.
- **Road Resurfacing:** \$2,650,000 for resurfacing, \$500,000 funded through Chapter 90, and \$2,150,000 (half of a \$4,300,000 request) funded through a bond issue or other means. Musante distributed a sheet with estimated bond payment costs for five and ten years. Mooring and the PWC created a prioritized road plan intended to catch up on the backlog of repair needs, so that future Chapter 90 allotments would help keep us current. That road plan does not include sidewalk work, which would increase the total cost by 20% to 30%. There was discussion about uncertainties of Federal stimulus money and State transportation reform, and how both might impact local infrastructure funding.
- **DPW Improvements:** \$5,000 would fund unexpected upgrade needs during the year.
- **Security System:** \$20,000 would pay for upgrades necessary to install a security system, using mostly existing equipment, at three comfort stations (Groff Park, Mill River Recreation Area and Fort River) and to tie those in to the Police and DPW system.
- **Garbage Body for Dump Truck:** The \$60,000 garbage body's larger capacity would allow for fewer landfill trips; and its recycling compartment would enable use of recycling vessels downtown, the latter being a high priority in town.
- **Dump Truck w/ Sander:** The \$190,000 truck cost would be funded primarily by Chapter 90 (\$170,000) while taxation (\$20,000) would cover the plow equipment. There was discussion about sharing equipment with other towns when feasible; the need for a memorandum of understanding between towns with such arrangements (per damage responsibilities, etc.); optimal vehicle replacement times and standard auction prices; economies of purchasing versus leasing; that all vehicles are self-insured by the Town, with collision coverage removed from older vehicles; and personal use of DPW vehicles (two employees take vehicles home: Mooring, as part of his compensation package when hired; and the primary responder to water system calls, for geographical practicality.)
- **Two-Ton Asphalt Roller:** \$20,000 replacement, used for Town work on pot holes and drainage projects; would save maintenance costs, as current one needs increased repair.

- **3/4-Ton Pickup Truck:** \$45,000 replacement vehicle with utility body for highway supervisor; part of the plowing rotation when other vehicles are broken; extended cab experiment proved too small for carrying extra workers and club cab is too expensive, particularly with damage from plowing; and smaller trucks can't plow. There was discussion of contracting out for plowing and the added expense of the State's prevailing wage rate and fuel surcharge.
- **Street Light Relamping:** \$6,000 will allow for changing over 1/5th of the Town's street lights each year to more energy-efficient fixtures (flat, not ball-shaped, so less light spillage.) Town light poles have Town seal; others belong to WMECO, and a few to UMass and Amherst College.

Mooring indicated that the highest priorities were the dump truck, the pickup truck and at least some funding for the street lights. There was discussion about the rising cost of asphalt and the inadequate capacity to meet production needs if Federal stimulus money increases demand.

Musante distributed capital request materials for the 2/29 meeting, from the Libraries, Planning, Conservation and LSSE-Cherry Hill.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Stephanie O'Keeffe, Acting Clerk